

1918.

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FAVERSHAM  
Rural District Council.

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Annual Report

— OF —

PRIDEAUX SELBY, M.R.C.S. &C.

Medical Officer of Health,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1918.

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Faversham:

J. L. WYARD, PRINTER, PRESTON STREET.

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1919

# Faversham Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Twelfth Annual Report, it deals with the year ended December 31st, 1918.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following tables give the number of cases notified during each Quarter of the past year.

	Quarters	1	2	3	4	Total
Infectious Diseases ...		11	12	15	2	40
Tuberculous Diseases ...		8	3	2	1	14
Measles ... ..		14	6	2	1	23

There were no cases of Typhoid or Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis notified during 1918.

The cases were distributed among the different parishes as follows:—

Quarters	Scarlet Fever				Diphtheria				Erysipelas				Tubercle			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Badlesmere -							1									
Boughton -		4	2											1		
Buckland -	1														1	
Davington -																
Doddington -						1			1	1				1		
Dunkirk -					1	1										
Eastling -					1								1			
Faversham Without																
Graveney -																
Hernhill -		1	1													
Leaveland -																
Luddenham -							1									
Lynsted -			3										1			
Newnham -													1			1
Norton -													1			
Oare -													1			
Ospringe -		2			3								2			
Preston -			2													
Selling -		1														
Sheldwich -			1													
Stalisfield -	3															
Stone -						1										
Teynham -				2									2	1	1	
Throwley -							2									
	4	8	9	2	5	3	4		1	1			8	3	2	1
Totals			23				12			2					14	

The following cases were admitted to Beacon Hill Hospital :-

Scarlet Fever	...	...	23
Diphtheria	...	...	11
Measles	...	...	1
Cases for observation	...		4
			<hr/>
			39
			<hr/>

All the cases made good recoveries, and were most excellently looked after by the matron (Miss Basan) and the nurses who have not spared themselves when difficulties have arisen through shortage of both nursing and domestic staff.

The Hospital has been run economically and well.

### **SCARLET FEVER.**

There were 23 cases of Scarlet Fever spread through 10 parishes. The six cases in Boughton were all in one family. There was no outbreak in any school and all the cases were admitted to Beacon Hill Hospital.

### **DIPHTHERIA.**

There was no epidemic of Diphtheria during the year. 12 cases were notified occurring in 6 Parishes.

If we could get the condition of cesspools thoroughly sanitary in this district this epidemic form of Diphtheria should entirely disappear as it is so largely a disease due to want of or bad drainage initially.

### **PUERPERAL FEVER.**

No case was notified during the year - for the 9th year in succession. As so many cases in the rural districts are attended by Midwives this reflects great credit on their care.

### **TUBERCULOSIS.**

Fourteen cases of Tubercule were notified in the District from 9 different parishes and 17 deaths occurred. All rooms are disinfected after death or removal to Sanatorium. The Council's four shelters are in constant use.

There is not however the decrease in cases notified that I should like to see. There is still great need to educate the public in the extreme danger of infection from this disease, especially in small and overcrowded rooms. More Sanatorium accommodation, so that early treatment may be given, is required. Too often the patient is not admitted to the Sanatorium in time to be of any use in effecting a real cure, and meantime he is insufficiently isolated and thus the disease is apt to be spread.



## DIARRHŒA and INTERITIS.

6 deaths occurred from these complaints in infants under two.

Notices with regards to flies as a source of infection were posted throughout the district.

## MEASLES.

There have been 23 cases of Measles notified during the year. There were 13 in the Parishes of Dunkirk and Boughton in the First Quarter of 1918, but since then there has been no epidemic and the remaining 10 cases were distributed among 6 different Parishes.

## CAUSES OF DEATH IN FAVERSHAM RURAL DISTRICT.

Causes of Death.			Males.	Females
All Causes	...	...	111	80
Enteric Fever	...	...		
Small-pox	...	...		
Measles	...	...		
Scarlet Fever	...	...		
Whooping Cough	...	...		
Diphtheria	...	...		
Influenza	...	...	17	19
Erysipelas	...	...		
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	6	8
Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...		1
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...		2
Cancer, Malignant Disease	...	..	9	5
Rheumatic Fever	...	...		1
Meningitis	...	...		
Organic Heart Disease	...	...	9	5
Bronchitis	...	...	6	2
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	..	10	8
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	2	
Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	...	...	5	
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	...	...	1	
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...		
Alcoholism	...	...		
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	...	...	3	
Puerperal Fever	...	...		
Parturition, apart from Puerperal Fever	...	...		2
Congenital Debility &c.	...	...	4	3
Violence, apart from Suicide	...	...	1	2
Suicide	...	...	1	
Other defined Diseases	...	...	36	21
Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	1	1
Special Causes (included above)				
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...		
Poliomyelitis	...	...	1	
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age	...	...	12	10
Illegitimate	...	...	1	3
Total Births	...	...	145	164
Legitimate	...	...	136	156
Illegitimate	...	...	9	8
Population	for Birth Rate	...	14.653	
	for Death Rate	...	13 078	

Appended is the Table of Vital Statistics for the whole of Faversham Rural District for 1918 and the five preceding years.

Table I—Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1918 and previous Years.  
NAME OF DISTRICT, FAVERSHAM RURAL.

Year	Population estimated to Middle of each Year	Births		Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths		Nett Deaths belonging to the District		
		Nett		Number	Rate	of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 year of age		At all ages
		Number	Rate					Number	Rate 1000 nett Birth	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11 12
1913	14,000	296	21·14	185	13·2	31	19	25	84·4	173 12·3
1914	14,000	320	22·85	196	14·0	40	20	22	72·1	176 12·5
1915	14,474	311	21·48	227	15·6	31	23	20	64·3	219 15·1
1916	15,413	349	22·64	252	17·07			20	57·3	
1917		304	20·00	195	14·34			19	60·2	
1918	see below	309	21·09	191	14·60			26	84·1	

Area of District in acres } 44,386  
General Register Office figures for Population for Birth-  
(land and inland water) rate, 14,653, for Death-rate, 13,078, 1911 Census, 14,129.

## INFANT MORTALITY.

	1 week.	1 - 2 weeks.	2 - 3 weeks.	3 - 4 weeks.	1 - 3 months.	3 - 6 months.	6 - 9 months.	9 - 12 months.	Total under 1 year.
Influenza ... ..	1								1
Measles ... ..									
Convulsions ... ..									
Pneumonia ... ..					1		1	1	3
Diarrhœa ... ..					3	2	1		6
Syphilis ... ..									
Permatute Birth... ..	4								4
Other defined Causes ...	2		1		3		2		8
	7		1		7	2	4	1	22

Deaths from all causes in Infants under 1 year in 1916 20

1917 19

The Infant Mortality Death rate per 1000 net Births is 84.1

## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The same arrangements are in force as last year. The death rate among infants under 1 year is somewhat higher, but this is accounted for by the prevalence of Influenza and diseases of the respiratory organs prevalent throughout the year at all ages. The district Nurses are still very useful, and on the whole the children are well nourished and healthy. The mother's in many cases suffered during the rationing period, as where there was a family they went short themselves in order that the children might have plenty. The high death rate in children under 1 year may have been partly caused by the resulting deficiency in the quality of Mother's Milk.

At the August Meeting of the R.D.C. the following resolution was passed following a recommendation by me.

“Resolved that in the event of the necessity arising for the provision of accommodation for the treatment Infantile Diarrhœa, the Hospital Committee in conjunction with the M.O. be allowed to provide and furnish such accommodation as may be deemed necessary at Beacon Hill Hospital at a cost not exceeding £100.”

The Act is administered in the District by the County Council.

There is still a great need of educating the mother's both in feeding and clothing, and general care of Infants and Children.

The want of fresh air in the cottages is a fruitful source of illness. Windows are kept shut day and night and though the rooms may be clean the air is seldom sufficiently changed.



## INFLUENZA AND PNEUMONIA.

Whilst cases of other infectious complaints have been small during 1918, Influenza and Pneumonia have been prevalent all the year. An epidemic occurred in July, and a more severe one in October and November.

On each occasion the epidemic started in the towns and more populated areas and spread by degrees to even the most isolated spots.

Infection is undoubtedly spread by contact but I would suggest money and the very dirty notes now prevailing are a constant source of spread of infection.

The epidemic was most severe among adults: children and old people in most cases escaping lightly.

A great many cases of catarrhal pneumonia occurred, but there was only one death from this cause during the July epidemic.

During the October and November epidemic the registered deaths numbered 36 at the following ages.

	under 1	1 to 2 years	2 to 5 years	5 to 15 years	15 to 25 yrs.	25 to 45 yrs.	45 to 55 yrs.	over 65
Males ... ..	1		1	2	5	11	2	2
Females ... ..			1	1	2	7	1	
Total ... ..	1		2	3	7	18	3	2

Total deaths during Autumn epidemic is **36**.

Of the male deaths 9 were military.

Nearly all the deaths among women occurred in women who were the mother or housekeeper of a family and who were therefore unable to go to bed and take the necessary care.

School.	Disease	Period of closure.
Boughton under Blean	Influenza	November 4th - 9th
„ „ „ Wes. I	„	„ 4th - 16th
„ „ „ Wes. M	„	„ 9th - 16th
Dunkirk ... ..	„	„ 20th - 30th
Graveney ... ..	„	„ 11th - 16th
Lynsted ... ..	Wh. Cough	May 6th - 18th
Luddenham Cl. ...	Influenza	October 4th - 14th
North Preston ...	„	„ 15th - 26th
Norton C.E. ... ..	„	December 2nd - 16th
Ospringe C.E. ... ..	„	October 28th - Nov. 9th
Ospringe, Painters Forstall	„	„ 28th - „ 11th
Selling ... ..	„	„ 21st - „ 2nd
Teynham ... ..	„	„ 29th - „ 16th

The District Nurses did all in their power to help, but the nursing was insufficient and outside help was impossible to obtain.

On the appearance of the epidemic the following notice was drafted by me and inserted by the Council in the local papers.

### PUBLIC NOTICES.

Faversham Rural District Council.

### EPIDEMIC "COLDS," INFLUENZA & PNEUMONIA.

"Colds" and Influenza are like Measles. They are caught from other people: not from fresh air or draughts.

All persons suffering from Catarrh with feverishness should stay in bed or they run the risk of Pneumonia.

### PRECAUTIONS TO PREVENT SPREADING INFECTION.

- (1) Ventilate all rooms by flooding with air several times daily.
- (2) Avoid crowding in hot rooms. This is the worst thing for spreading infection.
- (3) Avoid particularly infecting old people and children who may die if infected.
- (4) Clear the nose and throat twice daily by putting a teaspoonful of pale pink solution of permanganate of potash in boiled water in the palm of a clean hand and sniffing it up each nostril into the throat.
- (5) Anti-cold Vaccination is a most useful and reliable preventive.
- (6) Always wash the hands before meals.
- (7) Put three drops of Eucalyptus Oil in the handkerchief.

The following were the complications most prevalent.

Pneumonia  
Nose Bleeding

Bronchitis  
Pleurisy

### SCHOOLS.

### VERMINOUS HEADS.

As School Medical Inspector I have to report the extraordinary number of school children suffering from this condition in some of the schools.

It is so prevalent that any sense of shame for the filthy condition seems to have been lost, both by parents and children.

Health Visitors are wanted very badly to help to combat the condition which is disgusting and disgraceful to all concerned and will require very thoroughly taking in hand by the School Authorities, backed by the Health Visitors and District Nurses.

If not attended to and infection of Typhus Fever or Trench Fever made its appearance the result might be a very terrible epidemic.

I hope to get the matter thoroughly in hand shortly.



## EPIDEMIC JAUNDICE.

In June a mild outbreak occurred in Eastling Schools. All the cases recovered. In October a few cases occurred in Dodding-ton Schools which all did well.

Notice was sent to the County Medical Officer and a Medical Officer from the L.G.B. hoped to come down to investigate, but was prevented at the last moment.

## MALARIA.

On different occasions men invalided from the Army with Malaria have been notified as home on leave. There has so far been no spread of Malaria among civilians, but the public should be warned as to the necessity of exterminating mosquitoes and treating the possible breeding grounds.

## SALE OF ABORTIFICANTS.

The Order in Council of April, 1917, should be brought to the notice of all local Druggists and Midwives, but I recommend that this Council send a strong recommendation to the L.G.B. that, as in my opinion most of the harm is wrought by the advertisements which are allowed indiscriminately in all newspapers, such advertisements should be rendered illegal and the strongest action taken against persons selling abortifacants under thinly disguised names.

## RAINFALL.

Colonel Honeyball and Mr. Stunt have again kindly placed their records at my disposal.

		Lorenden		Teynham
January	...	2·82	...	2·67
February	...	0·71	...	0·65
March	...	1·06	...	0·91
April	...	2·00	...	1·74
May ...	...	1·63	...	1·45
June...	...	0·79	...	0·85
July ...	...	2·69	...	3·00
August	...	0·66	...	0·60
September	...	4·58	..	4·47
October	...	2·61	...	2·21
November	...	2·44	...	2·05
December	...	2·05	...	1·45
		<hr/>		<hr/>
		24·04		22·05

**Housing (Inspection of the District Regulation) 1910.**

The number of dwelling-houses inspected under and for the purposes of Section 17 of the Act of 1909	...	...	794
The number of dwelling-houses which on inspection were considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation...	...	...	Nil.
The number of representations made to the local authority with a view to the making of closing orders...	...	...	Nil.
The number of closing orders made	...	...	Nil.
The number of dwelling-houses the defects in which were remedied without the making of closing orders	..		184
The general character of the defects found to exist	...		General Repairs

**WATER SUPPLY.**

The Parishes of Doddington, Eastling, Lynsted, Teynham, Norton and Newnham are supplied in their most populous portions by the Mid Kent Water Company's mains. The water has maintained its purity well throughout the war.

North and South Preston, Faversham Without, Oare, and Ospringe are similarly supplied by the Faversham Water Company. I have heard no complaints of the quality of the water.

Boughton has its own water works and mains which belong to the R.D.C. The extension of the mains, and building of a reservoir at the top of Boughton Hill to be fed by a new and more powerful pump, will increase the supply and allow mains to be laid on to parts of the Parish of Dunkirk. The whole scheme has been delayed by the war but should soon be completed. The Parish of Selling obtains some supply from the pumps at Lees Court.

Graveney water supply is very deficient and complaints have been made about the water at the Schools. The Parish of Hernhill is very scattered but if it is found that plenty of water is available from the Boughton extension I would urge that pipes be laid on as far as the village of Hernhill for the supply there is very bad, and water has to be carted to the village and the School. There is a deep well at Staple Street in this parish which provides good water.

The hamlet of Conyer in Teynham has its own supply from a well about  $\frac{1}{2}$  - mile away. When labour is more available I hope the mains of the Mid Kent Water Company will be extended to give a good supply.

Throughout the western and southern parts of the district the outlying houses are universally supplied by wells in the chalk and there is little to complain of.

Beacon Hill Infectious Hospital is supplied from a deep well in the chalk which is pumped by an engine.

### **DRAINAGE.**

BOUGHTON—Is the only parish which has a main sewer and it cannot be regarded as being in a very satisfactory state.

OSPRINGE—Requires main drainage and I hope it will soon be able to get it in hand. Just before the War the Urban Authorities expressed their willingness to deal with the sewerage and I strongly recommend that negotiations should be re-opened.

TEYNHAM AND LYNSTED—Greenstreet, the most thickly populated area in these parishes and its immediate neighbourhood are in a thoroughly unsatisfactory state, owing to the failure of the contractors during the war to dig out the solids from cesspools. The result has been overflowing cesspools and much insanitation. The question of main drainage is under consideration and in my Annual Report for 1919, I shall deal with the matter more fully. The matter is now being taken thoroughly in hand and already some improvement can be reported.

NORTH PRESTON AND OARE—Are partly sewered.

The remaining parishes are dependent on cesspools and earth closets and there is a marked improvement in the past few years following the continual abolition of privy pits.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

PRIDEAUX SELBY,

Medical Officer of Health.

Appended will be found the Annual Report of Mr. Caffyn the Sanitary Inspector.



# SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT, 1918.

## HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

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20, WEST STREET,

FAVERSHAM,

February, 1919.

To

DR. PRIDEAUX G. SELBY,  
Medical Officer of Health,  
Faversham Rural District Council.

DEAR SIR,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1918.

As in 1917 my report is again abbreviated owing to the L.G.B. request.

During the year, 1317 visits and re-visits have been made and work carried out affecting some 185 houses and premises. Owing to the war conditions prevailing the activities of my department have been very much curtailed.

### OFFICE WORK.

During the year 72 informal notices were issued, 52 letters sent, 23 written complaints received and 20 school notices sent out.

### DRAINS & CESSPOOLS.

Under this heading 94 defects have been remedied during the year.

### CLOSETS.

46 defects under this heading have been remedied including 26 privy conversions.

### GENERAL HOUSE REPAIRS.

During the year, 55 defects under this heading have been remedied.

## FACTORIES & WORKSHOPS.

There are 84 registered workshops in the district including 15 Bakehouses all of which have been periodically visited.

## SLAUGHTER HOUSES & MEAT INSPECTION.

There are 14 Slaughter-houses in use in the district and 478 visits have been made to these premises. They are all kept in a very fair sanitary state considering the difficult conditions which obtain.

Meat Condemned	1916	1917	1918
Carcases of Beef	6	4	4
Carcases of Mutton	11	23	1
Carcases of Pork	6	11	2
Pigs Head	29	12	1
Ox Heads	7	6	5
Ox Tongues	9	4	5
Livers	9	23	19
Pairs of Lungs	8	9	6
Other Organs and parts	26	34	42

## COWSHEDS & DAIRIES.

Fourteen visits have been paid to the Cowsheds in the district during the year. There are 52 registered premises in the district, 3 names have been removed and 5 added to the Council's register.

It was found quite impossible to give the number of cows and their yeilds of milk this year, owing to the unusual conditions that prevail.

Thanking you and the Council for the consideration and support I have received in carrying out my duties and assuring you of my continued efforts to promote the Sanitary welfare of my district.

I beg to remain, Sir,

Yours respectfully,

H. CAFFYN, M.R.S.I M.S.I.A.  
*Sanitary Inspector.*

**INSPECTIONS, &c., MADE.**

	1916	1917	1918
Premises inspected ...	552	651	794
Premises re-inspected ...	1684	1150	523
Slaughter-house inspections ...	680	722	478
Cowshed inspections ...	121	92	14
Workshop inspections ...	50	31	42
Inspections re Infectious disease	116	58	35
School inspection ...	54	29	3
Disinfections ...	131	82	0
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Complaints received ...	15	24	23
Notices served (informal) ...	296	185	72
Notices served (statutory) ...	0	0	0
Letters sent ...	153	72	52
School notices re infectious disease	100	51	20

**DWELLING HOUSES.**

Ventilation improved ...	5	1	0
Walls repaired ...	29	3	13
Ceilings repaired ...	22	3	5
Roofs repaired ...	43	29	13
Floors repaired ...	28	3	6
Gutters and Stack Pipes repaired	18	22	0
Yards renewed or repaired ...	9	3	1
Damp walls remedied ...	36	32	7
Overcrowding remedied ...	4	2	1
Houses cleansed ...	30	4	0
Windows repaired or made to open	21	7	4
Miscellaneous ...	7	4	5

**DRAINS & CESSPOOLS.**

New Drains ...	16	18	14
Drains repaired ...	10	6	4
Drains and Cesspools ventilated	66	30	11
New Gullies ...	11	6	5
"Bell" Traps abolished ...	3	4	2
Sinks new and repaired ...	16	11	8
Flushed and cleansed Drains ...	15	28	17
Empty Cesspools ...	31	21	16
Repair Cesspools ...	1	0	1
New Cesspools ...	9	9	6
New covers to Cesspools ...	22	6	3
Repairs Vent Shafts ...	6	2	3
Miscellaneous ...	6	4	4



**CLOSETS, Etc.,**

	1916	1917	1918
New Water Closets...	1	1	0
New Pail Closets ...	11	2	2
Repair Structures ...	33	0	2
Privies converted to Water Closets	53	10	10
Privies converted to Pail Closets	46	42	16
New Pans and Traps ...	11	0	6
Cleanse and Flush ...	5	15	0
Supply dry earth to pail Closets and empty		Constant.	
Ventilate Closets ...	2	0	0
New Pails to Closets ...	3	2	3
Miscellaneous ...	9	12	7

**WATER SUPPLY.**

Clean out Wells and Rainwater Tanks	2	4	2
New covers to Wells and Tanks	3	3	0
New Rainwater Tanks ...	1	0	0
Samples of water taken ...	4	3	0
Certificates refused and granted	2-0	0-0	0-0
Miscellaneous ...	3	4	4

**MISCELLANEOUS.**

	22	14	9
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